

Preliminary Amendment
Division of Serial No. 09/283,998
Sughrue Ref: Q79675

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 Cancelled.

Claim 7 (original): A connector arrangement comprising:
a first connector including a flexible arm disposed thereon; and
a second connector including an arm guide member disposed on an inner surface thereof, said arm guide member having an inclined push-out guide surface for gradually deflecting the flexible arm as said connectors are engaged with each other, said deflection generating a push-out force separating said two connectors from each other in their mutually removing directions, wherein the elasticity of said flexible arm and the inclination angle of said push-out guide surface are set such that said push-out force generated thereby is greater than contact resistance caused by mutual connection between male- and female-type terminals respectively held within their associated connectors.

Claim 8 (original): The connector arrangement of claim 7, wherein said flexible arm includes an engaging portion which engages said arm guide member when said connectors are fully engaged.

Preliminary Amendment
Division of Serial No. 09/283,998
Sughrue Ref: Q79675

Claim 9 (original): The connector arrangement of claim 7, further comprising a locking arm extending from said first connector and having a locking projection, and a securing member disposed on said second connector, said locking projection engaging said securing member when said connectors are fully engaged.

Claim 10 (original): The connector arrangement of claim 9, wherein said first connector includes a pair of said flexible arms and said second connector includes a pair of said arm guide members respectively mateable therewith.

Claim 11 (original): The connector arrangement of claim 10, wherein said flexible arms extend from said locking arm.

Claim 12 (original): The connector arrangement of claim 11, wherein said flexible arm includes an engaging portion which engages said arm guide member when said connectors are fully engaged.

Claim 13 (original): The connector arrangement of claim 7, wherein said first connector includes a pair of said flexible arms and said second connector includes a pair of said guide members respectively mateable therewith.

Preliminary Amendment
Division of Serial No. 09/283,998
Sughrue Ref: Q79675

Claim 14 (original): The connector arrangement of claim 7, wherein a first portion of said inclined guide surface is inclined at a predetermined angle and a second portion is inclined at an angle greater than said predetermined angle.

Claim 15 (original): A connector arrangement comprising:
a first connector including a flexible arm disposed thereon, said flexible arm having an engaging projection extending therefrom; and

a second connector including an arm guide member disposed on an inner surface thereof, said arm guide member having an inclined push-out guide surface which is contacted by said engaging projection for gradually deflecting the flexible arm as said connectors are engaged with each other, said deflection generating a push-out force separating said two connectors from each other in their mutually removing directions, wherein the elasticity of said flexible arm and the inclination angle of said push-out guide surface are set such that said push-out force generated thereby is greater than contact resistance caused by mutual connection between male- and female-type terminals respectively held within their associated connectors.

Claim 16 (original): The connector arrangement of claim 15, wherein said flexible arm includes a pair of arm members which are joined together at distal ends thereof.

Claim 17 (original). The connector arrangement of claim 16, wherein said first connector includes a pair of said engaging projections respectively extending from said arm

Preliminary Amendment
Division of Serial No. 09/283,998
Sughrue Ref: Q79675

members and said second connector includes a pair of said arm guide members respectively mateable with said engaging projections.

Claim 18 (original). The connector arrangement of claim 17, wherein said first connector includes withdrawal prevention pieces respectively extending inwardly from said arm members and said second connector includes an obstacle plate, said prevention pieces abutting against said obstacle plate when said first connector is attempted to be engaged with said second connector when said flexible arm is deflected.

Claim 19 (original): The connector arrangement of claim 15, wherein said flexible arm has a locking projection extending therefrom and said second connector includes a securing member which is engageable with said locking projection when said first and second connectors are fully engaged.

Claim 20 (original): The connector arrangement of claim 15, wherein a first portion of said inclined guide surface is inclined at a predetermined angle and a second portion is inclined at an angle greater than said predetermined angle.